



# VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **Statement of Principle Regarding Electronic Meetings**

The Freedom of Information Advisory Council believes that technology can expand public monitoring of and participation in the affairs of government. It also believes representative government is best served when public officials meet face-to-face in regularly scheduled public meetings.

One of the primary responsibilities of accepting public office is the regular participation in face-to-face public meetings. The Council believes such meetings should continue to be the rule rather than the exception.

As technology advances, the use of electronic meetings will accelerate. As that occurs, the FOIA Council will continue to balance the preference for face-to-face meetings against the emerging technology in light of the clear policy statement of FOIA to afford citizens every opportunity to witness the operation of government, "since at all times the public is to be the beneficiary of any action taken at any level of government."

This statement was adopted by the FOIA Council at its meeting on June 9, 2008.